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IN THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM
PLAN STRESSES JOBS AND TRAINING

NEW YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT WILL CREATE
200,000 JOBS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

PRESIDENT ASKS INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT
AS PART OF HIS UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROPOSALS

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
REMAINS STEADY, BLS REPORTS

BLACK OFFICIAL SELECTED TO ATTEND
EXECUTIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

VELA NEW WAGE, HOUR ADMINISTRATOR
FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

500,000 UNEMPLOYED STILL ABLE TO COLLECT
EXTENDED JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES
TO 13.1 PERCENT OVER 2-YEAR PERIOD, STUDY SHOWS

$13 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR NEW FARMWORKER PROGRAMS

WAGE RATES IN CERTAIN FARM JOBS
REVISED BY U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT

REGULATORY AGENCY HEADS ANNOUNCE
COOPERATIVE REFORMS

BUDGETS FOR A RETIRED COUPLE, AUTUMN 1976,
INCREASE ABOUT 4.5 PERCENT

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Week of August 15, 1977

PRESIDENT'S WELFARE REFORM PLAN
STRESSES JOBS AND TRAINING

WASHINGTON -- President Carter has asked Congress to abolish the Nation's existing welfare system and replace it with a job-oriented program for those who can work and a uniform cash assistance program for those who can't.

The cash assistance program would be for those unable to work because of disability, age or family circumstance.

The President called his proposals the Program for Better Jobs and Income. He said he hopes it transforms the way the federal government handles the income needs of the poor and that it begins to "break the welfare cycle."

Some 1.4 million full- and part-time job and training opportunities would be created by the welfare reform proposal.

The program would combine a mixture of jobs and training. Training would be both on-jobs and away from the worksite.

Subsidized jobs would be those suitable for low-skilled workers. Wages would be at or close to the minimum wage. Jobs would contribute to community betterment.

Under the reform proposal, a major effect would be made to match low-income persons with available work in both the private and public sectors.

State and local officials would be responsible for assuring an unbroken sequence of employment and training services.

Major roles would be played by prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA); state employment service agencies, and community-based organizations.

CETA prime sponsors include state and major local government units. CETA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

A major component of the program would be a national effort to secure jobs for the principal wage earners of low-income families with children.

Where regular jobs could not be found in the private or public sectors, the President proposed, up to 1.4 million public service jobs--including part-time jobs and training--would be made available at or slightly above the federal minimum wage.

(More)

"This program represents a commitment by my administration to ensure that families will have both the skills and the opportunity for self-support," President Carter declared.

Under the new Public Service Employment Program,

-- Applicants would be required to engage in an intensive 5-week search for regular employment before becoming eligible for public service jobs.

-- Those working in public service employment would be required to engage in intensive job search every 12 months.

-- Every effort would be made to stress jobs that lead to acquisition of useful skills to help participants obtain regular employment.

-- Training would be a regular part of most job placements.

"Thousands of unmet needs for public goods and services exist in our country," President Carter said. "Through an imaginative program of job creation we can insure that the goals of human development and community development are approached simultaneously."

He said public service jobs would be in fields such as public safety, recreational facilities and programs, facilities for the handicapped, environmental monitoring, child care, waste treatment and recycling, cleanup and pest and insect control, home services for the sick and elderly, weatherization of homes, education, and cultural activities.

# # #

Week of August 15,1977

NEW YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACT WILL CREATE
200,000 JOBS, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON -- President Carter has signed the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act of 1977, which will initially provide for 200,000 job and training opportunities for jobless young people.

The Act launches a broad attack on problems of high unemployment and lack of training among youths, 16 through 23.

It creates four new programs under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), which is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Initial financing will be $1 billion earmarked from the President's economic stimulus program.

The new programs will emphasize employment and increasing the employability of youths.

There will also be important efforts to:

-- Improve and coordinate training, jobs and career development programs for young people.

-- Explore different approaches to providing youth services.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall called the Act "one of the most important decision initiatives of this year.

"For the first time, this country has a comprehensive policy to deal with the persistent and serious problem of youth unemployment," Marshall said.

He added:

"The statistics on youth unemployment are frightening. The unemployment rate for teen-agers has hovered around 18 percent for more than a year. For blacks and other minorities the figures are much worse, approaching 40 percent. In some urban areas, it is a rarity to find a teen-ager with a job. Half of all the unemployed people in this country are under the age of 24.

(MORE)

"What accentuates this problem is that more than 700,000 teen-agers drop out of school every year before receiving a high school diploma," Marshall said.

He said the statistics "don't tell you about the teen-agers who have lost hope because they feel they can never find a job. They don't tell you about the teen-agers who give up on their education because they figure they will never find a job anyway.

"They don't tell you about the teen-agers who have turned to crime and drugs because they have lost any optimism about the future."

Prime sponsors under CETA will play the major role in running three of the four programs:

-- Youth Entitlement Pilot Projects

-- Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects.

-- Youth Employment and Training Programs.

Prime sponsors include State and major local government units.

The fourth program, the Young Adult Conservation Corps, will be operated on public lands by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior under interagency agreements with the Labor Department.

An Office of Youth Programs will be established in ETA to administer the new and existing yough programs. A task force is currently developing program guidelines and regulations.

Following are brief descriptions of the new youth programs:

Young Adult Conservation Corps -- The YACC will provide jobs and other services for unemployed 16 - through 23-year-olds from all economic backgrounds in conservation projects in public (federal and nonfederal) parks, forests and recreation areas.

Agriculture and Interior will establish both residential and nonresidential camps (most in the second category) for YACC enrollees.

(MORE)

Youth Incentive Entitlement Pilot Projects -- The basic aim of the Entitlement Projects is to demonstrate and test various approaches that will guarantee jobs and/or training for economically disadvantaged youths, 16 through 19, who are in school or willing to return to school to complete their education.

Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects -- These will provide employment, work experience, skill training, and opportunities for community service to unemployed youngsters, 16 through 19, who are in-school or out-of-school and having difficulty getting work.

The emphasis of the program will be on highly supervised jobs. Training will be provided only as a component of the job.

Projects may include rehabilitation of public facilities, weatherization and basic repairs of low-income housing, and energy conservation efforts. The program will stress the involvement of neighborhood and local organizations to assure that projects accurately reflect community needs.

Youth Employment and Training Programs -- YET will provide a wide range of Title I-type activities that enhance job prospects and career opportunities for young people, particularly low-income youth, who have the toughest problems entering the labor market.

In-school and out-of-school work experience will be a primary emphasis of YET. In-school jobs will be linked to programs of the job information, counseling, and placement, and integrated into the regular educational curriculum.

The program will be largely restricted to 16-through 21-year-olds who are unemployed, underemployed, or in-school and who are members of families whose income does not exceed 85 percent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics low living standard budget.

# # #

PRESIDENT ASKS INCREASED LABOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
AS PART OF HIS UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROPOSALS

WASHINGTON -- President Carter has asked for increased enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act under his program to refuce the influx of undocumented aliens.

In a message to Congress, the President requested enactment of a five-point program. He urged that enforcement of the two Labor Department-administered laws be increased "significantly" in areas where heavy hiring of undocumented aliens occurs.

The President's other proposals, based on a Cabinet-level study in which Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall played a leading role, included:

-- Making it unlawful to hire undocumented aliens, with civil penalties against employers who engage in a "pattern of practice" of such hiring and criminal penalties for those receiving compensation for knowingly helping an undocumented alien get or keep a job.

-- Adjusting the immigration status of undocumented aliens who have lived in the United States continuously since before Jan. 1, 1970, and who apply for permanent resident alien status with the Immigration and Naturalization Service; there would be a new category of "temporary resident alien" for those who have been here continuously since before Jan.1, 1977, but not before Jan. 1, 1970.

-- Substantially increasing border control.

-- Promoting continued cooperation with the government of countries that are major sources of undocumented aliens, in an effort to improve their economies and their control over alien smuggling rings.

President Carter pointed out that millions of undocumented aliens who have illegally immigrated to the United States during the last several years have displaced many Americans from jobs.

(MORE)

He added:

"The Fair Labor Standards Act, which mandates payment of the minimum wage and provides other employee protections, would not only be strictly enforced, but its existing civil and criminal penalties would be sought much more frequently by the government.

"To date, the inability of the government to enforce fully this Act, due in part to a lack of resources, has resulted in the hiring of undocumented aliens at subminimum wages, thereby often displacing American workers."

The President asked that 260 new enforcement personnel be hired for areas of heavy undocumented alien employment.

He said the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act, which prohibits the recruiting and hiring of undocumented aliens for farm work, would be "tightly enforced."

President Carter said his proposed employer sanctions, their general reliance on "pattern of practice" enforcement, are designed to minimize any cause for discrimination against Mexican Americans.

He said federal agencies, in addition, would be asked to step up enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.

As part of his program, President Carter asked Secretary of Labor Marshall, who was present at the announcement, to conduct a comprehensive review of the current temporary foreign worker (H-2) program, in consultation with Congress and interested groups.

President Carter stressed that he was "not considering the reintroduction of a bracero-type program for the importation of temporary workers."

The President also asked Secretary Marshall, along with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, to begin a comprehensive review of the Nation's existing immigration laws and policies.

# # #

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
REMAINS STEADY, BLS REPORTS

WASHINGTON -- The unemployment rate for blacks at 13.2 percent in July remained steady, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

For whites, the unemployment rate decreased from 6.3 percent in June to 6.1 percent in July.

The rate for black teenagers (40.7 percent) remained extremely high, although the jobless rate for all teenagers at 17.4 percent was at its lowest point since October 1974. This decline was confined to white youth.

Total employment was about unchanged in July and unemployment dropped back to May levels.

The Nation's unemployment rate was 6.9 percent, compared with 7.1 percent in June.

Total employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was 90.6 million in July, little changed from June after advancing for 8 consecutive months. Employment has grown by 2.8 million over the past 12 months--a 2.9 million increase in nonagricultural industries and a 140,000 decline in agriculture.

Nonagricultural payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--did show further growth in July, rising by 255,000 to 82.4 million. Over the past year, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 2.9 million, and thus, at least for this period, the two employment series have exhibited equivalent growth. Prior to July, the household employment series had been showing the larger gains.

The number of unemployed persons declined by 220,000 in July to 6.7 million, seasonally adjusted. The overall unemployment rate edged down from June, returning to the May rate of 6.9 percent. The jobless rate has been close to the 7-percent mark since April, after declining from late 1976.

All of the over-the-month decrease took place among teenagers and adult women. The rate for adult women was 6.9 percent, compared with 7.2 percent in June and 6.6 percent in May. The jobless rate for adult men was about unchanged at 5.1 percent.

The average (mean) duration of joblessness declined from 14.4 weeks in June to 14.1 weeks in July. There has been a general downward trend in average duration of unemployment since early 1976.

# # #

Week of August 15, 1977

BLACK OFFICIAL SELECTED TO ATTEND
EXECUTIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- George I. Henry, a career employee, has been selected by the U.S. Labor Department to attend the prestigious Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University here.

Henry, who is black, is special assistant for equal employment opportunity (EEO) to Assistant Secretary of Labor Donald Elisburg. Henry is also national coordinator of EEO programs for the department's Employment Standards Administration (ESA).

The 10-month training program at the college will include in-depth research, meetings with top leaders of government, science, industry, labor and academia and a 2-week field trip overseas.

Henry, a native of Gurdon, Ark., was nominated to attend on the basis of his "high potential for advancement and for assuming duties of increasingly higher level responsibilities."

The training program is part of the department's executive career development program designed to equip employees with the knowledge, skills and understanding to respond effectively to the priorities and complexities of important national labor programs.

Henry began his federal career in 1966, when he was appointed special assistant for EEO to the department's regional director in Dallas. He subsequently served with the then Bureau of Work Programs in Washington, D.C., returning to Dallas in 1967 as a contract relations specialist with the U.S. Department of Defense.

In April 1970, Henry rejoined the Labor Department as Dallas area director of what is now the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs. He served in this capacity until his appointment in May 1972 as EEO officer for ESA in Washington, D.C.

Henry became active in the civil rights movement during the integration of Central High School, Little Rock Ark. in 1957.

(MORE)

He has served as executive director of the Greater Little Rock Urban League. Under his leadership, the League sponsored a variety of Labor Department-funded training programs and a consumer education project.

Henry holds a B.A. degree from Philander Smith College, Little Rock. He has done graduate work at the University of Oklahoma and has attended Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., and the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

# # #

Week of August 8, 1977

VELA NEW WAGE, HOUR ADMINISTRATOR
FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WASHINGTON -- Xavier Vela has been sworn in as administrator of the U.S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division by Secretary Ray Marshall.

As administrator, Vela, 39, will oversee the department's enforcement of federal wage and hour laws protecting more than 56 million workers.

In congratulating Vela, Secretary Marshall noted that the department has been putting together "a good team of outstanding people."

Vela pledged that the Wage and Hour Division would continue "vigorous enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)" as well as other laws for which the division is responsible.

The FLSA of 1938 sets minimum wage, overtime, equal pay and child labor standards.

Also administered by the Wage and Hour Division are the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which prohibits discrimination against workers ages 40 through 64 because of age, and the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act, which protects migrant workers, and wage-hour laws covering employees working under federally funded contracts.

Before joining the Labor Department, Vela, a native of Albuquerque, N.M., was with the National Council of La Raza, Washington, D.C., as an advisor on housing and was active with the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

He has served with the U.S. State Department's Agency for International Development, Office of Economic Opportunity, the American Institute for Free Labor Development and the Retail Clerks International Association.

Vela received his B.A. degree in philosophy (1960) and his M.A. degree in international relations (1963) from the University of California (Berkeley). He has studied at the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque), Occidental College (Los Angeles) and the University of Maryland (College Park.)

He and his wife, the former Pilar Saavedra, live in Washington, D.C.

# # #

Week of August 8, 1977

500,000 UNEMPLOYED STILL ABLE TO COLLECT
EXTENDED JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS

WASHINGTON -- About 500,000 of the 740,000 persons drawing unemployment insurance extended benefits in mid-July will continue to obtain them for varying lengths of time despite the cessation of regular extended benefits in 37 states, Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall said.

Jobless workers in 13 states and Puerto Rico are able to collect extended unemployment compensation because legislatures in these states took action to continue payments even though the national insured unemployment rate dropped below 4.5 percent.

(The rate dropped to 4.47 percent on July 2, shutting off regular extended benefits as of July 23 in the 37 states and the District of Columbia, affecting about 218,000 people.)

The 13 states, representing about 270,000 jobless claimants, are: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, Vermont, and Rhode Island, and Puerto Rico.

Another 20 of the 37 states that discontinued regular extended benefits (EB) on July 23, are still paying Federal Supplemental Benefits (the 13 weeks of extended benefits on top of the 13 weeks of regular extended benefits.)

In the case of the Federal Supplemental Benefits (FSB), persons to whom EB or FSB are payable in the last week of an FSB period will have 13-weeks additional eligibility periods immediately following the end of the FSB period, during which benefits will continue to be payable up to each person's maximum entitlement.

In 18 states, additional eligibility periods have begun for an estimated 250,000 claimants and have continued in effect beyond the week ending July 23. The states and the end of the additional 13-week eligibility periods are:

(More)

Alabama	Sept. 4	Missouri	Aug. 21
Arkansas	Sept. 11	Montana	Oct. 2
Delaware	Sept. 4	New Mexico	Aug. 28
Hawaii	July 31	North Carolina	Aug. 14
Idaho	Oct. 2	North Dakota	Sept. 18
Kentucky	Aug. 28	Tennessee	Aug. 21
Maryland	Aug. 28	Utah	Sept. 18
Minnesota	Aug. 21	W. Virginia	Sept. 11
Mississippi	Sept. 18	Wisconsin	Aug. 21

FSB will continue to be paid in the 13 previously listed states as well as Illinois and Nevada. Nevada was scheduled to stop FSB payments as of July 30.

Persons wishing to obtain information about their rights to extended benefits of Federal Supplement Benefits in any states should contact the nearest state public employment service office or unemployment insurance claims office in their locality.

# # #

BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES
TO 13.1 PERCENT OVER 2-YEAR PERIOD, STUDY SHOWS

WASHINGTON -- The unemployment rate for blacks increased to 13.1 percent, up from 9.9 percent, between 1974 and 1976, according to a U.S. Labor Department report.

The report, "Manpower Groups which have Historically High Incidences of Unemployment," was submitted by Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall to Congress as required by law. When Congress enacted the 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, it requested the department to conduct a continuing study of such groups and to issue a report every two years. This is the second report covering 1974 to 1976.

According to the report, the highest increase in unemployment was among 20 to 24 year-old veterans, rising from 10.9 percent to 17.4 percent.

Other labor force groups identified as experiencing historically high unemployment rates are: females, persons of Hispanic origin, teenagers and 20 to 24 year-olds. The elderly were specifically cited for inclusion by Congress.

The average unemployment rate for teenagers increased from 16.0 percent to 19.0 percent between 1974 and 1976. For 20 to 24 year-olds, the rate was 9.1 percent to 12.0 percent; for women, 6.7 percent to 8.6 percent, and 8.1 percent to 11.5 percent for persons of Hispanic origin.

The study also found that for the first time in years, the unemployment rate for the elderly (65 years and over) exceeded five percent, up from 3.4 percent in 1974.

Other findings reported are that between 1974 and 1976 the civilian labor force grew by 3,762,000 workers, an increase of 4.1 percent, and employment increased by 1,550,000. Average duration of unemployment increased from 9.7 weeks in 1974 to 15.8 weeks in 1976, or over 60 percent.

Many persons who have been unemployed for long periods of time join the statistical category of "discouraged workers," people who are technically not in the labor force, but who want jobs. They are not looking for work only because they think they cannot

(MORE)

get jobs. The number of discouraged workers rose from 686,000 in 1974 to 910,000 in 1976, a 33 percent increase.

In the report, Secretary Marshall expressed his concern for improving the employment situation for both youth and veterans, two groups experiencing great difficulty competing in today's labor market.

He said that under the Carter Administration's economic stimulus package, federally funded public service employment will be raised from 310,000 to 725,000 by Dec. 31, 1977. Over an 18-month period, Job Corps slots will be doubled.

Marshall said he opposed the concept of a special youth wage because it is discriminatory and would result in substituting teenagers for adult workers. These views are reflected in the proposed "Youth Employment and Training Act of 1977," which requires that participants be paid at least the federal minimum wage -- currently $2.30 per hour.

# # #

$13 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR NEW FARMWORKER PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department is seeking proposals for spending up to $13 million in two types of new farmworker programs under President Carter's economic stimulus program.

Assistant Secretary of Labor Ernest G. Green said prospective sponsors can apply to conduct either residential skill training or employment and training coordinated with rural economic development activities.

The new initiatives may be operated by private nonprofit organizations, prime sponsors (city, county and state governments) under Title I of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), and other public organizations.

Technical and vocational institutes and other training centers, including the Job Corps, may operate residential skill-training programs.

The programs are funded under the Economic Stimulus Appropriation Act of 1977.

The Solicitation from Grant Award (SGA) proposal forms will be available on or about Aug. 8, 1977. Interested applicants should write for SGA's to Paul Mayrand, chief, division of Farmworker Programs, Employment and Training Administration, Room 7122, 601 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20213.

Applicants should furnish two self-addressed gummed labels with the written request for the SGA forms. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Proposals must be received by the department at the same address no later than Sept. 8, 1977. Review panels will be convened in September with contract signing beginning Nov. 1, 1977.

# # #

Week of August 15, 1977

WAGE RATES IN CERTAIN FARM JOBS
REVISED BY U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department has revised the minimum wage rates to be paid domestic and temporary alien farm workers in 10 of the 11 states where most aliens have been legally admitted to work in agricultural jobs.

The changes in the hourly rates are revised annually to prevent an adverse effect on wages paid U.S. workers.

The 1977 hourly wage-rate increases averaged 15 cents and ranged from 14 to 22 cents. They become effective immediately.

The Labor Department has set the following "adverse effect" minimum hourly wage rates to be offered agricultural workers in these states (a comparison is made to the final 1976 rates):

STATE	1976 RATE	1977 RATE
Connecticut	$ 2.61	$ 2.75
Florida (sugar cane only)	3.04	3.23
Maine	2.69	2.84
Maryland	2.27	2.43
Massachusetts	2.56	2.70
New Hampshire	2.82	2.97
New York	$ 2.48	$ 2.70
Rhode Island	2.58	2.72
Vermont	2.78	2.93
Virginia	2.44	2.63
West Virginia	2.74	2.74

(More)

The "adverse-effect" rate is the wage an employer must offer U.S. workers-- and foreign workers, as well--to be able to apply for labor certification for temporary use of foreign workers.

Since the influx of temporary foreign labor in agriculture could affect prevailing wage rates, the Labor Department has established these rates to offset any possible adverse effect on U.S. employees in similar kinds of jobs.

Temporary foreign agricultural workers are imported primarily to pick apples along the eastern seaboard or cut sugar cane in Florida.

To obtain the 1977 adverse-effect wage rate, the prior year's rate was adjusted by the percentage change in the Agriculture Department's farm wage rate for field and livestock workers between 1975 and 1976. For the New England states, the prior year's adverse-effect rate for each state was adjusted by the percentage change in all the New England states because of the area's limited use of hired agricultural labor.

# # #

Week of August 15, 1977

REGULATORY AGENCY HEADS ANNOUNCE COOPERATIVE REFORMS

WASHINGTON -- Seven cooperative initiatives to reform the regulatory process and improve the protection of worker and public health were announced at a joint press conference by heads of the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Assistant Secretary for OSHA Eula Bingham, EPA aministrator Douglas M. Costle, FDA Commissioner Donald Kennedy, and CPSC Chairman S. John Byington said in a joint statement: "The President during the campaign promised the American people that waste and duplication in the federal government would be eliminated where possible. He is committed to improving the management of the government. Our agencies often deal with many of the same issues and the same industries, and they often have the same research, regulatory, and enforcement objectives. It is time we planned and worked together to streamline our regulatory processes and maximize our resources."

The agency heads have directed their field staffs across the country to develop cooperative workplans within thirty days to meet this goal.

The staffs have been told to consider sharing facilities, laboratories, vehicles, libraries and other resources, as well as to examine the possibilities of increased cooperation in compliance and enforcement and alternative ways to reduce the burden on the regulated industries.

The joint agency initiatives include:

-- development of compatible testing standards and guidelines to determine what criteria should be used in deciding whether testing is needed, what tests should be run, what amount and type of data is necessary for determining safety, and how data should be interpreted:

-- risk and safety and health assessments to decide what data each agency needs to determine a "risk," what methods will be used, and how the results will be announced;

-- information sharing to include looking at the current systems each agency uses

(More)

and to determine if a national information system on toxic substances is needed and, if so, how it can be developed;

-- research planning to include an examination of each agency's research needs, and a determination of the cost and effectiveness of cooperative research;

-- regulation development to include looking at ways to improve cooperation among the agencies in developing regulations;

-- compliance and enforcement to include an examination of how field personnel can jointly contribute to the mission of all four agencies, and whether laboratory as well as other facilities could be shared; and,

-- interagency communication and publication and public education on the regulation of toxic substances to examine the possibilities for jointly exchanging information with the public and industry through publications, seminars, conferences and hearings.

EPA, FDA and CPSC already have developed a cooperative plan to ban the nonessential aerosol uses of chlorofluorocarbons that may be depleting the earth's protective ozone layer. Other cooperative efforts among the agencies to date include investigating the safety of glasses decorated with lead-containing glazes, and developing complementary proposals to limit the exposure of workers and the general public to benzene.

The agencies believe this new effort will strengthen day-to-day interagency coordination. "We are confident," they said, "that these efforts will result in more consistent regulatory policy, better sharing of information resources, and improved protection of public health."

# # #

Week of August 15, 1977

BUDGETS FOR A RETIRED COUPLE, AUTUMN 1976,
INCREASE ABOUT 4.5 PERCENT

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has updated to autumn 1976 its three hypothetical annual budgets for a retired couple and related area cost indexes that can be used to compare the cost of these budgets in selected urban areas. This updating reflects price changes between autumn (September-November) 1975 and autumn 1976.

In the autumn of 1976, the estimated U.S. average annual cost of the lower level budget for an urban retired couple, excluding personal income taxes, amounted to $4,695. At the intermediate and higher levels, the budget costs amounted to $6,738 and $10,048, respectively.

Costs for all the budgets are about 4.5 percent greater than the estimated budget costs for the autumn of 1975.

The updated budget costs represent the costs at autumn 1976 prices of three hypothetical lists of goods and services specified in the mid-1960's to portray three relative levels of living--lower, intermediate, and higher--for a retired couple. The cost of the budget is not intended to represent the income necessary for subsistence at the poverty level, but simply represents a level relatively lower than the intermediate budget.

(MORE)

Table A. Summary of annual budgets for a retired couple at three levels of living, urban United States, autumn 1976

Component	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget
Total budget 1/	$4,695	$6,738	$10,048
Total family consumption	4,493	6,333	9,281
Food	1,443	1,914	2,402
Housing	1,613	2,334	3,653
Transportation	322	629	1,161
Clothing	206	347	535
Personal care	138	202	298
Medical care	571(P)	574(P)	579(P)
Other family consumption	200	332	657
Other items	202	405	767

1/ Beginning with the autumn 1973 updating of the budgets for a retired couple, the total budget is defined as the sum of "total family consumption" and "other items." Income taxes are not included in the total budgets.
(P) Preliminary estimate.
NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Consumption costs were updated to 1976 by applying the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) between autumn 1975 and autumn 1976 for individual areas to the autumn 1975 budget costs for each main class of goods and services. This method of updating is approximate because the CPI reflects spending patterns and prices paid for commodities and services purchased by urban wage earners and clerical workers in general, without regard to their family type or level of living. The hypothetical spending behavior of the retired couple differs from the pattern of the CPI family. The last direct pricing of the budgets was in spring 1969.

(MORE)

Changes in consumption costs reflect only changes in prices. The market baskets are based to a large extent on analysis of expenditure and consumption patterns of the early 1960's when these budgets were developed; the baskets have been held constant since then.

Table B. Percentage changes in the budgets for a retired couple, autumn 1975 to autumn 1976

Component	Budget level		
	Lower	Inter-mediate	Higher
Total budget	4.3	4.2	4.7
Total family consumption	4.3	4.2	4.7
Food	1.1	0.1	0.2
Housing	6.5	6.5	6.5
Transportation	8.4	9.0	9.6
Clothing	4.0	3.9	4.1
Personal care	7.8	7.4	7.6
Medical care 1/	3.4	3.4	3.6
Other family consumption	4.7	4.7	4.6
Other items	4.1	4.1	4.2

1/ The autumn 1976 cost estimates for medical care contain a preliminary estimate for "out-of-pocket" costs for Medicare.

Between autumn 1975 and 1976, the total cost of the lower budget rose by 4.3 percent, and the intermediate and higher budgets rose 4.2 and 4.7 percent, respectively--all smaller changes than in the previous 3 years. The percentage increases from autumn 1975 to autumn 1976 for all the components in the three budgets are shown in Table B.

The retired couple is defined as a husband, age 65 or over, and his wife. They are assumed to be self-supporting and living in an urban area; they are in reasonably good health and able to take care of themselves. Different qualities and quantities of goods and services are provided for each level due to variation in consumption patterns, differences in climate, and differences in types of transportation facilities.

(MORE)

The budgets are described in detail in BLS Bulletin 1570-6, "Three Budgets for a Retired Couple in Urban Areas of the United States, 1967-68." Copies may be obtained under accession number PB 227521/AS at a cost of $4.75 from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

Supplements with budgets for spring 1969-70, autumn 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1975 are available free of charge from BLS Regional Offices:

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Week of August 15, 1977

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

"Women and Work," a publication of the U.S. Labor Department, is a comprehensive review of all that has been learned about women and work for research and development projects sponsored by the department's Employment and Training Administration.

The report, R & D Monograph No. 46, can be obtained from the Inquiries Office, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Rm. 10225, 601 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20213.

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More than 403,000 persons were working, as of July 22, 1977, in jobs with state and local governments under the expanded public service employment (PSE) program supported by federal funds, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

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A goal of the Economic Stimulus Appropriation Act, signed by President Carter on May 13, 1977, is to have 725,000 persons in public service jobs by no later than the end of February 1978, the U.S. Labor Department reported.

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The Public Service Employment (PSE) program, administered by the U.S. Labor Department, is operated by 446 state, city, county and combinations of state and local governments, serving as prime sponsors who receive their funds through the Labor Department's 10 regional offices.

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